

MEDIA ADVISORY  
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*Educating Businesses on Tax Incentives*

**Istook to Tour OKC Empowerment Zone**

*Washington, DC* -- Thursday morning, Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) will take a walking tour through the Oklahoma City Empowerment Zone, visiting with business owners and letting them know about the tax incentives available to them.

The OKC Empowerment Zone includes 20 square miles and covers areas surrounding downtown Oklahoma City, stretching from NE 36<sup>th</sup> and Martin Luther King Avenue down to SW 29<sup>th</sup> Street and Portland Avenue. Last year's designation of the area as an empowerment zone by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allows businesses in the area to claim up to \$3,000 per worker in tax credits for employees who also live in the area, as well as other tax credits and incentives. Istook will also be inviting business owners to a special meeting on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at Langston University regarding the empowerment zone program.

Istook will be accompanied by Steve Rhodes of OKC; City Council Member Willa Johnson; Wayne Reed and Forrest Lee of Capitol Chamber of Commerce; and Joe Mendoza of Capitol Hill Main Street Association who will also function as a Spanish translator.

**MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Congressman Istook will be available for interviews and photo/video opportunities from 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon at Coney Island on 240 SW 25<sup>th</sup> Street. Local Contact: Sarah Stuck – cell phone (405) 833-5940**